

**WEST LAFAYETTE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**  
**WEST LAFAYETTE CITY BUILDING**  
**WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA**

**TIME:** 5:00 pm, Tuesday, July 21, 2009

**PLACE:** Lower Level Conference Room

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Dave Buck	Chris Leroux
	Vicki Burch	Karen O'Farrell
	David Christian	Debbie Siciliano
	John Cox	Kumares Sinha
	David Downey	Boudewijn van Gelder
	Jim Knapp	Larry Wood

<b>VISITORS:</b>	Beth Cook	Wendy Field
	Mayor John Dennis	Justin Mack
	Chief Jason Dombkowski	Michael Thompson

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

Chairman Sinha brought the meeting to order and determined there was a quorum. Debbie Siciliano was introduced as the new representative for District 3. She replaces Bernadette Farris who resigned in June. Also introduced was the new Assistant City Engineer, Michael Thompson. Mr. van Gelder made a motion to approve the May minutes. Ms. Burch seconded and the May minutes were approved as written.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**08-03 Safe Routes to School**

Mr. Buck stated that a pre-construction meeting was held on Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Construction crews should be on the site next week. Mr. Buck anticipates that all construction work should be done by the start of school. The beacons may not be here before the start of school, but will be installed when they arrive. Mr. Buck stated that the new beacons are solar powered and operated remotely from a master controller. The pedestrian crossing function can also be triggered manually.

**08-05 Mid-block Pedestrian Crossings**

Mr. Buck brought to the commission recommendations for five mid-block pedestrian crossings: Russell & First, Russell & Third, Russell & Fourth, Columbia & Northwestern, and Grant & North. The crossings are designed to encourage drivers to yield to pedestrians and provide pedestrians with a safe place to cross.

The drawings show enhanced 6' crossings in a ladder style, triangle yield lines 20' in front of the crossings, and additional curb markings to shorten the length of the crosswalks. In addition to the new

pavement markings, new signage will be installed to remind drivers that Indiana state law requires them to yield to pedestrians. The cost for these improvements will be shared between the city and Purdue.

Captain Leroux stated that once the installation is complete, around early August, police will begin education and enforcement. The initial focus will be on the three Russell Street crossings by using portable signage and additional officers. Police will increase patrols the first week of school to encourage the proper use of the crosswalks. Chief Cox stated that the Purdue Student Government (PSG) is in support of these crossings, and will be working to get students behind this effort.

Chief Cox stated that education is the focus of this process and will be the key to making these crosswalks successful. This is a four-year effort, with this year's freshmen class the first group to be properly educated.

Captain Leroux made a motion to approve the five mid-block crossings as presented, Ms. Burch seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Cox asked the commission to consider a mid-block crossing on Grant Street from the parking garage to the Union. Mr. Buck replied that this crossing was discussed in 2008 and a mid-block crossing was not recommended at that time. The commission chose to focus on a crossing at Grant and North. Chief Cox requested we re-open this discussion at a later date due to high pedestrian counts at this location.

Mr. Buck stated that he had received a citizen complaint about pedestrians crossing Salisbury Street at Pike. Pedestrians cross at this location to get to the softball and soccer fields at Cumberland Park. Mr. Buck stated that we may look at Salisbury Street, both at Pike and at the Farmers Market entrance, as future mid-block crossings.

## **08-16 Mackey Arena Expansion**

Chief Cox stated that the Purdue police have begun to issue state citations for dump truck weight violations. The police have been spot-checking dump trucks and have issued about a dozen state citations.

Chief Cox also stated that the new "F" lot is getting ready to open, and he encouraged drivers to be prepared for these new entrances and exits along Northwestern. Chief Cox would like to see a speed zone or pedestrian signs along this section of Northwestern, but INDOT has been slow to respond to these requests.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **09-11 Improving Pedestrian Crossing Safety at Uncontrolled Locations Web Seminar**

Mr. Buck stated that there will be a pedestrian safety interactive web seminar on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> from 12noon – 1:30pm at the West Lafayette police station. Mr. Buck would like to invite all commission members. The city is covering the cost of the seminar.

### **09-12 Emergency Response Complaint, Tecumseh Park Court**

Mr. Buck stated he had received a complaint regarding a parking issue on Tecumseh Park Court. According to the complaint, on-street parking from the Sunday morning service at Upper Room Christian Church blocked access to an emergency response. Mr. Buck is going to gather more information and bring a recommendation to a later meeting.

### **09-13 Stop Sign Request, Summit and Oakhurst**

Mr. Buck stated he had received an email request from a citizen asking that the city consider a stop sign at Summit and Oakhurst. Currently, there is a yield sign on Summit and no traffic control on Oakhurst. Mr. Buck stated he is not opposed to recommending a stop sign and a "cross traffic does not stop" sign. He will have more traffic counts taken when the students return, and make a recommendation.

### **09-14 High School Traffic**

Ms. Siciliano asked if there were any plans to help manage the pedestrian and vehicular traffic around the high school, once school begins. Her specific concern was the interrupted sidewalk along Ravinia in the area of Forest Hill and Leslie. Students walk in the road when the sidewalk ends. Mr. Buck stated that his office is prioritizing sidewalk projects and the Safe Routes to School committee is reviewing concerns such as this. He will make sure this section of Ravinia is reviewed.

**NEXT MEETING:** 5:00 pm, Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.M. Buck".

David M. Buck, P.E.  
City Engineer

DMB/wf